



# Harford County Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## LOADING & UNLOADING

Materials spilled or leaked during loading and unloading can either be carried away in stormwater runoff or washed off when the area is cleaned. As a result, many different pollutants can be introduced to the storm drain system, including sediment, nutrients, trash, organic material and trace metals. The risk of stormwater pollution is greatest for operations that transfer high volumes of material or liquids or unload potentially hazardous material. Special attention should be paid to the loading and offloading of bulk materials.



### Pollution Prevention Techniques for Loading and Unloading Areas

- ✓ Avoid loading and unloading materials in the rain.
- ✓ Cover loading/unloading areas with a canopy or roof if possible and surround the loading/unloading areas with berms or grading to prevent contact with or pooling of stormwater.
- ✓ Close adjacent storm drains during loading and unloading operations to keep debris out.
- ✓ Inspect the integrity of all containers before loading/unloading.
- ✓ Ensure that a trained employee is always present to handle and cleanup spills and have an Emergency Spill Cleanup Plan prepared for the facility.
- ✓ Install an automatic shutoff valve to interrupt flow in the event of a liquid spill.
- ✓ Pave the loading/unloading area with concrete rather than asphalt.
- ✓ Place drip pans at locations where leaks or spills may occur and always use pans when making and breaking connections.
- ✓ Position roof downspouts to direct stormwater away from loading/unloading areas and preferably into BMP practices such as bioretention areas.
- ✓ Sweep loading/unloading area surfaces frequently to remove material and debris. Don't wash by hosing the area down. Collect trash and litter before it can be washed into the storm drain system.
- ✓ Train all employees, especially forklift operators, on basic pollution prevention practices and post signs.
- ✓ Use seals, overhangs, or door skirts on docks and terminals to prevent contact with rainwater.
- ✓ Design liquid storage areas with impervious surfaces and secondary containment.